

Standard 4-5 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the westward movement and its impact on the institution of slavery.

4-5.4: Explain how territorial expansion and related land policies affected Native Americans, including their resistance to Americans' taking over the land, breaking treaties, and massacring the Native American people, the Indian Removal Act of 1830; and the Seminole Wars.(H, G, E)

Taxonomy Level: B 2 Understand / Conceptual Knowledge

Previous /Future Knowledge:

Portions of this information were taught previously in this grade level concerning territorial expansion during the colonial period and how the colonial hunger for land affected Native Americans (4-2.7).

In 5th grade, students will explain the social and economic effects of the westward expansion on Native Americans, including changes in federal policies, armed conflicts, opposing views concerning land ownership, and Native American displacement (5-2.5).

In United States history, students will explain the impact and challenges of westward movement, including the displacement of Native Americans (USHC-3.1).

It is essential for students to know:

Territorial expansion and related land policies had a very negative impact on **Native Americans**. As more settlers moved farther west, they took more Native American land and created conflict with the Native American tribes. The United States government exercised its power to make treaties and to force tribes to move from their ancestral lands.

The **Indian Removal Act of 1830** was a law passed by the United States Congress and signed by President Andrew Jackson. It provided land and money the president could use to enter treaties with the Native Americans in which the Indians agreed to leave their lands east of the Mississippi and move west. If a tribe resisted the Americans taking over the lands the United States government would take the land by force. Having no choice, some Native American tribes moved farther west voluntarily. Other tribes, such as the Cherokee nation, attempted to live in harmony with the American settlers and adopted many American customs. The Cherokee tried to resist removal by taking their case to the Supreme Court. Even though the Supreme Court ruled that the Cherokee had a right to their land, President Jackson ignored the Court. He used the army to force the Cherokee to move from their homes across the Mississippi River to Oklahoma, the Indian Territory, on what is called the Trail of Tears. The **Seminole Wars** in Florida were fought because the Seminole Indians refused to give up their lands peacefully and move to reservations. The Seminoles lost; many were captured and forced to move to the Indian Territory.

Even though the Native Americans were promised reservations in the west, settlers and the military often broke treaties. White settlers wanted Native American lands because of the gold or silver or the rich grazing land found there. This caused conflicts between settlers and Native Americans that led to a series of Indian wars. These conflicts were sometimes used as an excuse by soldiers and settlers to massacre Native Americans. Native Americans resisted until they were defeated and forced onto reservations in the period after the Civil War

It is not essential for students to know:

Students do not need to know the plight of specific Native American tribes, except the Cherokee and the Seminole. They do not need to know about specific conflicts in the west and the specific massacres of the tribes in the west. They do not need to remember "Custer's Last Stand."

Assessment guidelines:

Appropriate assessments would require students to **explain** the effects of territorial expansion and related land policies on Native Americans. Assessments may also require students to **summarize** westward expansion and the breaking of treaties. They should also be able to **compare** the resistance of the Cherokee, the Seminole and tribes that were massacred as a result of their resistance to white settlement. They should be able to **infer** that the Native Americans were not granted the same rights and government protection as other Americans.